

35.C12902



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
HAJIME YAMAMOTO, et al.)
Application No.: 09/132,746) Group Art Unit: 1771
Filed: August 12, 1998)
For: FIBROUS MATERIAL,)
PRODUCTION PROCESS OF)
THE FIBROUS MATERIAL,)
INK-ABSORBING MEMBER,)
TREATING PROCESS OF THE)
INK-ABSORBING MEMBER,)
INK TANK CONTAINER,)
AND INK CARTRIDGE : April 1, 1999

The Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants
respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents
listed below and on attached Form PTO-1449. A copy of each
document so listed is enclosed.

- (1) U.S. Patent No. 5,509,140
- (2) U.S. Patent No. 5,567,373
- (3) U.S. Patent No. 5,619,239
- (4) U.S. Patent No. 5,742,311
- (5) U.S. Patent No. 5,784,088
- (6) U.S. Patent No. 5,815,184
- (7) Japanese 4-348947
- (8) Japanese 64-4350
- (9) Japanese 8-310011
- (10) Japanese 8-20115
- (11) Japanese 8-20155
- (12) Japanese 9-109410

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English-language equivalents of the Japanese documents are not known, but an English-language abstract for each has been located and is enclosed.

Documents 7 to 12 were cited in the specification at pages 3 to 6, and are believed to be pertinent for the reasons noted there.

Applicants also direct the Examiner's attention to the following U.S. patent applications which have been commonly assigned with this application:

- (12) U.S. Appln. No. 08/689,012, filed July 30, 1996
- (13) U.S. Appln. No. 08/742,049, filed Nov. 1, 1996
- (14) U.S. Appln. No. 09/124,018, filed July 29, 1998

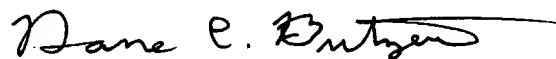
In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(iii), no copies of these applications are enclosed, nor have the applications been listed on attached Form PTO-1449. The Examiner is respectfully directed to Patent and Trademark Office Files to review these applications. In this regard, documents 12 and 13 are currently being examined in Group Art Unit 2108, and document 14 is in Group Art Unit 2853. It is believed that Japanese priority applications for at least some of these U.S. applications have been published, making those Japanese applications potentially available as prior art under § 102(a).

Inasmuch as the subject application has not yet received a first Office Action, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study

this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialling the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants

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